

VOLLEYBALLERS SWEEP COVINGTON 3-0; SOCCER TEAM CRUSHES DYER COUNTY 7-1



Above: Crockett senior Katherine West -- who has been outstanding in two matches this week -- celebrates a teammate's success in Thursday night's sweep of Covington. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Two Lady Cavalier sports teams claimed important victories Thursday night in games that could have post-season implications.

Crockett County's volleyball crew swept Covington – a team they could very well see in a West Sectional, as in 2024 – but it wasn't as easy as it sounds, needing long service runs to come from behind in the final two sets.

Over in Newbern, the Lady Cav kickers survived a WWE tussle with host Dyer County to pound the Lady Choctaws 7-1, securing a district win – but the best news was that none of them were injured.

VOLLEYBALL: Coach Andrew Laman's club improved to 18-6, but needed an 11-point service run by Audrey Whitby to spark a comeback in Set 2 and a match-closing, six-point run by Darcy Puffer to erase a deficit in Set 3 as the Lady Cavs registered the 25-8, 25-14, 25-22 triumph.

While the hosts sailed through the first set with no problem whatsoever, they trailed 13-11 in the second until Whitby went on a run from the service line that shoved Crockett in front 22-13 until the streak was broken. While she was making returns difficult for the Lady Chargers, Laman's squad was getting consistent kills from Katherine West and Wesley Thornton to storm back ahead.

In Set 3, Covington's sensational Ava McCalla strapped her team on her considerably sufficient back and carried it to a 22-19 advantage until Crockett broke serve. Puffer entered the rotation and promptly served the remaining six points necessary, ending the contest with a perfectly placed drop serve that eluded the Charger defense.

West, playing her second consecutive outstanding match this week, and Thornton – rapidly becoming one of West Tennessee's best front-liners – were joined in the power attack by Deonna Cole, Keeton Holyfield, and Madi Collins, keeping the cries of "Boom!" resounding from the Lady Cav bench throughout the night. Primary setter Lakyn Forsythe was consistently on target preparing the slamfest.

But Covington's McCalla, a junior this season, has the ability to keep the Lady Chargers viable in any match with a complete arsenal that includes power slams from the back row when necessary. Crockett's overall depth made the difference, but it wouldn't be a surprise if these teams meet again when tournament play begins.

It was Senior Night for Crockett, which honored Cole, Holyfield, West, Whitby, Puffer, and Ava Lee before the match. Another highlight came during the JV encounter, when Lady Cav manager Tink Willis had to fill in as a player and afforded herself well in the role, even serving an ace at one point.

Crockett will be hosting its own annual tournament Saturday before closing out the regular season next week with road duels at Dyer County and Lexington.



Above: When Lady Cavalier volleyball opponents see Wesley Thornton (20) reach this position, they'd be better off by just ducking for cover. The power slam was active against Covington Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

SOCCKER: Clutching, grabbing, hip-checking, kneeling, tripping – it could have been Wrestlemania, a hockey game, or Duke basketball. Instead, it was the style of “play” that host Dyer County threw at Crockett’s soccer team Thursday, all to no avail as Coach Carli Branson’s crew demolished the Lady Choctaws 7-1.

The win improved Crockett’s district record to 2-1 going into Monday’s huge matchup at Dyersburg, which already owns a district victory over South Gibson and could virtually clinch the top tournament seed with another triumph.

Branson’s team weathered the literal attack from Dyer County as six different players scored goals, three had assists, and the lone goal that got past goalkeeper Hannah Wede was on a ball that deflected off Crockett’s Emily Morales and into the net, prompting a series of taunts from Lady Choctaw players.

Morales, a senior who has been battling a hip injury, kept her cool and – not long after the ball was put back into play – blasted a shot past the Dyer County keeper, prompting chants of “#9 from Crockett County” from the Lady Cav side, the same taunt Morales was given on the “own goal” minutes earlier.

“It was a beautiful goal,” Branson said. “It helped propel our efforts to finish the game strong. Our girls played with heart tonight and played for one another; they trusted the person around them and respected their positions. We had multiple players contribute to the outcome of the game, including every player not listed on the stat sheet.”

Rebecca Waddey tallied two goals and dished out a couple of assists, and Alivia Hale, Braniya Green, Avery Thornton, Morales, and Ruth Gourley all joined her in the scoring column. Gourley and Caroline Scruggs also had assists, and Wede made four saves at the net.

The Lady Cavs will head to Dyersburg Monday night with an overall record of 6-3-2. A Crockett win could cause a three-way tie at the top of the district standings.

Right: Lakyn Forsythe continued her string of consistent sets that allow for Crockett’s front-liners to hammer away, which they did often against the Lady Chargers Thursday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Audrey Whitby served 11 points in a row in Set 2 to rally Crockett from a 13-11 deficit to a 22-13 lead against Covington. The Lady Cavs won the set 25-14. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Senior Keeton Holyfield wallops a kill shot for the victorious Lady Cav volleyballers, who are now 18-6 for the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Deonna Cole (15) slams a final-set winner to draw Crockett closer after the hosts fell behind by a few points. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Darcy Puffer returns a Covington serve as Addie Davidson looks on, ready to assist if necessary. Puffer served out the last six points of the match to help rally the Lady Cavs from a 22-19 deficit. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Another highlight from Thursday's volleyball session actually came during the JV game, when Crockett manager, dancer/singer, and head encourager Tink Willis filled in as a player for the first time, even recording an ace. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Madi Collins hammers home a kill as the Lady Cav volleyballers continue to refine their power game in preparation for Saturday's tournament hosting. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Lady Cav Braniya Green is being kneed in the derriere and pushed in the back as she tries to maneuver upfield against the physical tactics of the Lady Choctaws. Green scored a goal as Crockett prevailed 7-1. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: "Hey - it's #9 from Crockett County!" Emily Morales (9) is swarmed by happy teammates (from left) Kate Davis (19), Caroline Scruggs (5), Emme Grace Martin (3), Kyleigh Kelley (behind Morales), Cristal Martinez (1), Chloe Campbell (24), Claire Nichols (behind Campbell), and Rebecca Waddey (7) after avenging taunts from Dyer County players by scoring a quick goal. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Left: More "sock-her" is being played by Dyer County here against Crockett junior Rebecca Waddey (7), who responded to the assault by scoring two goals and dishing out two assists. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

09/25/2025



Above: Alivia Hale's early goal against Dyer County is celebrated by Ruth Gourley (4) and Emme Grace Martin (3). (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: Ruth Gourley scored another goal and contributed an assist in the Lady Cavs' 7-1 romp over Dyer County Thursday. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Left: Crockett's Avery Thornton (13) was one of six Lady Cavs to score goals against Dyer County, whose intimidation tactics went for naught. (Photo by Robin Waddey)